



CSBG Success Story

Please submit success story to Jessica Simon at jessica.simon@commerce.wa.gov. If you have questions, contact Jessica at 360-725-2850. Due Date: The 10th of the month the story is due.

Date: 2/9/10

Organization Name:	City of Seattle, Seattle Conservation Corps
Contact Person/Title:	Cathie Andersen
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1. Success Story is for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARRA <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 09 (skip to question 8) <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 10 (skip questions 6 & 7)
2. CSBG Project Name:	Emergency Assistance - Rent
3. Total Project Budget:	\$30,000
4. Total CSBG Amount of Budget:	\$30,000
5. Number of total clients expected to serve, with all funds for the project:	75
6. Number of ARRA jobs expected to be created/retained as a result of this project:	.5
7. Number of ARRA jobs actually created/retained as a result of this project to date:	0
8. Brief project/activity description:	Through this project SCC will increase funding for rent assistance to program participants to better assist them to find and maintain housing needs during their participation in the SCC program and during up to one year of retention services.
9. How will this project help clients, build community, and form new partnerships? What aspects of the project would you like to share with the public:	
<p>These new funds will help clients get into much needed housing and to maintain that housing through the difficult transition out of homelessness. It will enable SCC participants to build a foundation of stability in support of permanent employment, family stability and long term personal growth. Current funding is inadequate to the need and comes out of program project revenue. This new funding has allowed SCC to shift project revenue funds to other uses and will double SCC's ability to provide rent assistance to our participants. Please see attached Word document for a great example of how these ARRA funds have helped someone through a very difficult medical issue.</p>	



The Seattle Conservation Corps, a paid sheltered-work program for the homeless, helps to house, employ, and stabilize the lives of over 100 people each year. However there are times when a participant encounters such severe hardship during their participation in the program that it appears impossible for them to continue their progression towards a stable lifestyle. One of this year's SCC participants, David Taylor, a 38-year-old man with a history of depression and substance abuse, encountered such hardship. The day that David found out that a mole on his left shoulder blade was skin cancer; he came to work tearful and shaken. He talked to a number of SCC Staff Members and received support. He

also talked to his case manager but was too upset to work out a strategy for dealing with how to reinforce the underpinnings of his basic necessities so that the illness would not deplete him of everything. Most of all, he was afraid of dying. He thought that possibly he had abused his body with drugs for so many years while he lived on the streets that he had compromised his fundamental physical health. His case manager attempted to re-direct his thoughts by telling him that he could never know what the cause of the cancer was and that this type of worry would only flood his thoughts with an endless stream of anxiety. Furthermore, there was still hope. At that point, the cancer had not been tested and could have been benign.

David's case manager was worried about how David would pay his rent. He had previously received a rent voucher when he entered the program. The standard policy was that participants could only receive rent assistance once. The manager of the SCC had applied for the ARRA grant. However, the funding had not come through. David and his case manager called a number of community based organizations, but he was either ineligible because of his zip code or because of his income. Additionally, many community based organizations had already exhausted their annual funding capacity by August.

David's test came back and the cancer was malignant. He would need to have surgery. Again this pushed him into his feelings of anxiety and sadness, but he did not allow his sadness to debilitate him. He took time-off and went to see his 13-year-old daughter in Spokane. He explained his circumstances to her. He then returned and prepared for his surgery.

David and his case manager made more phone calls for rent assistance, but to no avail. Finally the manager of the SCC told the case manager that the funding had come through. The day before David went into surgery he received a rent voucher that secured his transitional housing for another month. The relief he experienced was obvious not only on his face, but even in the way that he carried his body.

David successfully made it through surgery and the cancer was totally removed. However, he had to recuperate for a number of weeks and the SCC does not have funding for sick leave. Again the ARRA funding was used to maintain his housing. David eventually returned to the SCC and has been paying his own rent ever since. He is cancer free. He has not used drugs. He is not depressed. David is back on the path to attaining stability. Presently he is on job search. Without ARRA funding, David could very well have ended up back on the streets by now. He did not have family to help. He only had this program and the few friends that he had established while being in this program. But sometimes a little can go a long way.

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